戦争
WAR OF JUST THE TWO OF US
ふたりぼっち
1
肘原えるぼ
JUMP COMICS SQ.

戦ぼっち
ふたり
ONLY TWO BOX
THE FATED TRIO
3
TEMPEST

SO REMEMBER, THE UNITS ARE ALWAYS STANDING BETWEEN THE BORDER OF LIFE AND DEATH.
BECOMING A UNIT DOESN'T MAKE A PERSON IMMORTAL.
EVEN THE RECON-STRUCTIVE SURGERY THEY RECEIVE HAS ITS LIMIT.
THE HEAD, NECK AND HEART...
IF ANY OF THESE 3 PARTS GET DAMAGED, NO MATTER HOW SKILLED WE ARE, WE STILL WON'T BE ABLE TO SAVE THEM.
.....

IN THE MIDDLE OF A BATTLE.
SO IF I WERE TO GET ANNA KILLED
SO EVEN IF THEY CAN RECONSTRUCT THEM, THEY STILL WOULDN'T BE ALIVE. ?
ALL I'LL BE ABLE TO DO IS SIT IN FRONT OF HER COFFIN .
I WON'T EVEN GET A CHANCE TO SAY GOODBYE TO HER.
SHE'LL DIE WITHOUT EVER SEEING IT COMING.
WHILE THE OVERWHELMING SENSE OF GUILT STRANGLES ME, CONSUMES ME.
LOOKING AT ANNA, LAYING THERE AS IF SHE WAS JUST IN A DEEP SLEEP

THE COST OF SCREWING UP THIS JOB IS TOO MUCH FOR ME TO HANDLE...
BUT I CAN'T STOP JUST BECAUSE I'M SCARED.
AFTER SEEING EVERYTHING ANNA'S BEEN THROUGH FOR ME...
HER STEADFAST DETERMINATION...
ウィ
ン
I'M READY.
FROM NOW ON...
I HAVE TO BE STRONG ENOUGH SO THAT SHE WON'T EVEN BE SCRATCHED WHILE SHE'S MY UNIT...
AH...
カラ
カラ

MISTER MENDEL! AND... UH... YOUR BROTHER?
JUST CALL ME RALPH.
MORNING, ILLYA.
ARE YOU TWO WATCHING SOMEONE'S SIMULATION TRIAL?
YEAH... CRUSHER'S RECORD HAS BEEN REALLY GOOD LATELY.
CRUSHER?
OH YEA, ILLYA. NEXT TIME YOU MEET YOUR SISTER, CAN YOU ASK HER SOMETHING FOR ME?
WHAT IS IT?
ASK HER TO GIVE ME HER NUMBER.
I DON'T THINK SHE'LL DO THAT IN A MILLION YEARS...
MEANIE!
YEAH, YOU'RE JUST IN TIME TO CATCH HIM IN THE MIDDLE OF PRACTICE.

I HEARD THAT HE HAD THE BEST SCORE IN THE NUMBER OF IDOLA KILLED IN LAST YEAR'S TEST.
HE JOINED A YEAR BEFORE US.
THE WAY HE WORKS MAKES YOU NERVOUS, DOESN'T IT?
HUH!?
DOES HE REALLY WANT TO WIN THAT MUCH...?
HE'S LETTING HIS UNIT RECEIVE ALL THOSE ATTACKS...

BUT THAT...
IS HOW HE FIGHTS.

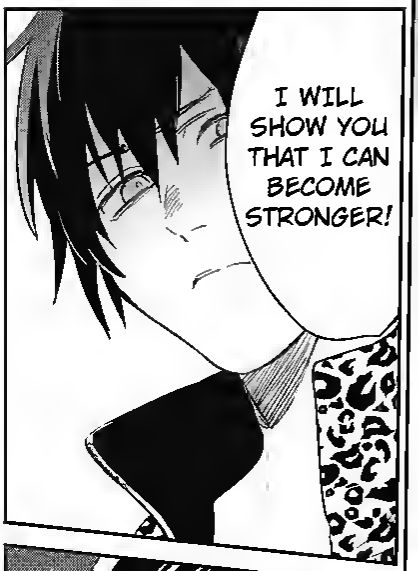
HE'S CRUSHED THE IDOLUM'S CORE!
!
THE FORM HE'S IN RIGHT NOW IS WHAT WE CALL STAGE 2.
STAGE 2?
THAT IS CRUSHER.

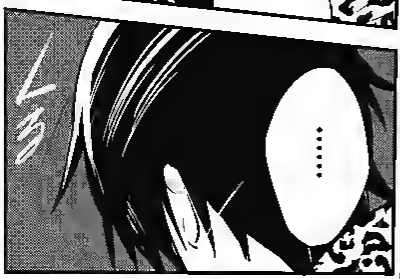
STAGE 2
STAGE 1
AT STAGE 1, WE CAN ONLY TURN OUR ARMS INTO A WEAPON.
BUT BY ACTIVATING THE IDOL CELL THAT HAS BEEN TRANSPLANTED INTO THE UNIT'S BODY
IT'S POSSIBLE FOR THE CONTROLLER TO EVOLVE THE UNIT, AND TURN OTHER PARTS OF THEIR BODY INTO WEAPONS AS WELL.
STAGE 2...
I CAN BECOME MUCH STRONGER IF I CAN EVOLVE.
FOR THAT, IT WOULD REQUIRE MASSIVE AMOUNTS OF BRAIN ACTIVITY FROM THE CONTROLLER TO MAINTAIN THAT STAGE.
RIGHT, MENDEL?
THAT'S RIGHT.
.....!
OH, I THINK DARYL, THE CONTROLLER OF CRUSHER, IS ABOUT THE SAME AGE AS YOU.
YOU PROBABLY HAVE A LOT TO ASK HIM, RIGHT?
YOU SHOULD GO SAY HI TO HIM.
OKAY!
LOOK, THERE HE IS.

I'M A NEW PILOT, MY NAME IS ILLYA KRAVITZ.
UHM, NICE TO MEET YOU, DARYL.
I SAW YOUR SIMULATION JUST NOW.
AND IT WAS... ERM... INCREDIBLE!
I WAS REALLY NERVOUS WHEN YOU JUST LET THEM ATTACK YOU AT FIRST, BUT
TODAY IS THE FIRST TIME I FOUND OUT ABOUT THE EVOLUTION SYSTEM!
I HOPE ONE DAY I CAN EVOLVE MY UNIT LIKE YOU, AND...
LIKE I THOUGHT.

JUST ANOTHER HYPOCRITE.
HUH...?

YOU?
YOU'RE JUST LIKE ALL THE OTHERS WHO SAY THAT THEY SHOULD COOPERATE AND FIGHT TOGETHER WITH THEIR UNIT.
A UNIT IS JUST A WEAPON. IF YOU CAN'T CONTROL YOUR WEAPON, THEN YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A JOKE.
STOP TRYING TO SPOON-FEED ME YOUR DISGUSTING GOODY TWO SHOES DELUSION.
IF YOU WANT TO PLAY HERO, THEN DO IT AT HOME.
YOU'LL JUST HOLD US BACK BY STAYING HERE.
THE STANDARD FOR THIS YEAR HAS DROPPED EXPONENTIALLY, IT SEEMS.
HAAAH...
... A UNIT IS NOT A TOOL.
THEY ARE MORE THAN JUST THE ARMS AND LEGS OF A PILOT.... THEY ARE FAMILY.
IT'S TRUE, I CAN'T FIGHT LIKE YOU.
BUT ...


I WILL SHOW YOU THAT I CAN BECOME STRONGER!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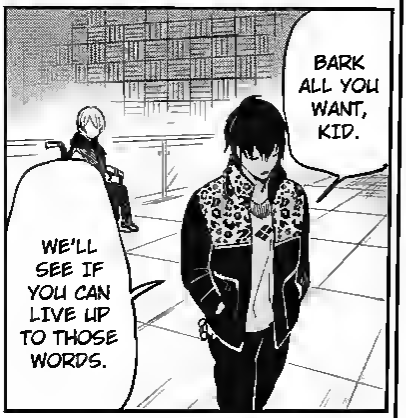
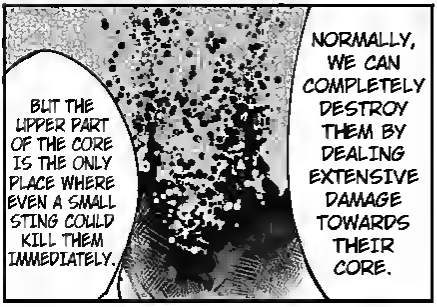
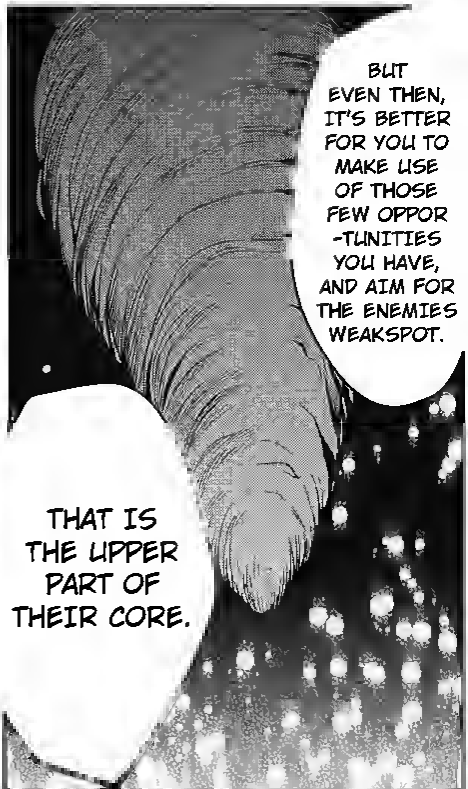

BARK ALL YOU WANT, KID.
WE'LL SEE IF YOU CAN LIVE UP TO THOSE WORDS.

I WILL CATCH UP TO YOU.
BY FIGHTING MY OWN WAY.

WELL, IT'S TRUE THAT YOU TWO ARE KINDA DIFFERENT IN TERMS OF PERSONALITY.
EACH PERSON HAS THEIR OWN WAY OF DOING THINGS...
BUT I JUST CAN'T AGREE WITH THE WAY HE FIGHTS.
DID YOU BECOME FRIENDS?
AS IF WE COULD!
ぴこ
……
……
I COULD NEVER JUST TREAT MY SISTER LIKE AN OBJECT...
YOU REALLY VALUE YOUR FAMILY, ILYA.
OF COURSE I DO.
I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO FIGHT WITHOUT SOMETHING TO PROTECT
OKAY, LET ME GIVE YOU A TIP, IILYA.
A TIP?
ALWAYS AIM FOR THE UPPER PART OF AN IDOLUM'S CORE.

THE UPPER PART...?
YOU'RE STILL BEING TOO CAUTIOUS, IILYA.
WHEN BEING FACED WITH THE SCENARIO OF DEFEATING THE ENEMY AS FAST AS YOU CAN, YOU TEND TO MISS A LOT OF OPPORTUNITIES TO GO IN FOR THE KILL.


NORMALLY, WE CAN COMPLETELY DESTROY THEM BY DEALING EXTENSIVE DAMAGE TOWARDS THEIR CORE.
BUT THE UPPER PART OF THE CORE IS THE ONLY PLACE WHERE EVEN A SMALL STING COULD KILL THEM IMMEDIATELY.


BUT EVEN THEN, IT'S BETTER FOR YOU TO MAKE USE OF THOSE FEW OPPOR-TUNITIES YOU HAVE, AND AIM FOR THE ENEMIES WEAKSPOT.
THAT IS THE UPPER PART OF THEIR CORE.

HAHAHA! NO NEED TO BE HUMBLE! HE THOUGHT OF IT ALL BY HIMSELF, YOU KNOW?
STILL, I ONLY FOUND OUT ABOUT IT FROM EXPERIENCE ...

YOU SHOULD TAKE THIS MORE SERIOUSLY, RALPH.
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO ANYWAY? YOU'RE THE ONE CONTROLLING ME WHEN WE GO OUT THERE, BUDDY.
THAT'S TRUE, BUT...
.....
ERM... THANK YOU FOR YOUR ADVICE!
I'LL TRY TO CONCENTRATE MORE.
はは
HAHAHA! YOU'RE REALLY SERIOUS ABOUT THIS, IILYA!
ペコ
.....

AN IDOLUM'S CORE IS ABOUT 130 - 170CM BIG.
.....
EASY, RIGHT?
BE SEEING YOU.
Mister Mendel...
.....!
He's really good at his job

I GIVE UP! I GIVE UP!
GIVING UP ALREADY?
WHERE'S ALL THAT ENTHUSIASM FROM JUST A MOMENT AGO?
YOU REALLY WANT TO LOSE TO ME?
JESUS... ALL BARK AND NO BITE, HUH.
I WANT TO BE TRAINED BY HER TOO
ANNA IS STILL AS STRONG AS ALWAYS.
HAH, YOU WISH...
なぁ…

BUT WE WERE REALLY LONELY HERE WITHOUT YOU, ANNA!
YOU GUYS AREN'T KIDS... FALL IN LINE!
I STOPPED BY FROM TIME TO TIME, DIDN'T I?
NO, I'M NEXT! I WON'T FORGIVE YOU IF YOU DITCH ME.
AH, JULE.
ANNA, PRATICE WITH ME NEXT!
SHE ALREADY PRACTICED WITH YOU EARLIER!
HEY, NOW, GUYS. DON'T FIGHT.

IT'S LIKE I JUST HAVE A BUNCH OF GIGANTIC LITTLE BROTHERS.
HMMM.

I HEARD YOU WERE SCOUTED BY THEM, RIGHT?
YOU'RE WORKING IN THE UPPER ECHELON OF THE ARMY NOW, RIGHT, ANNA! THAT'S AMAZING!

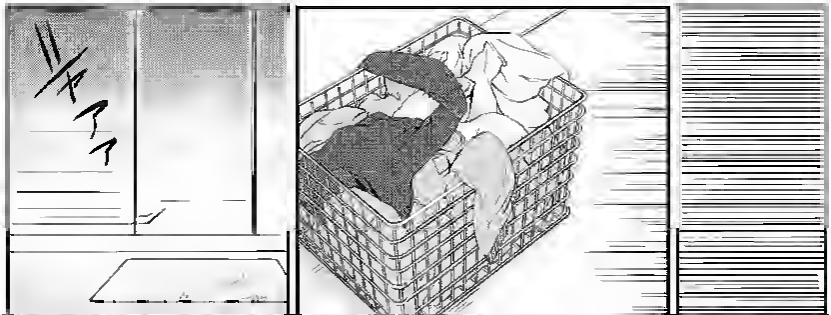
SO WHAT DO YOU DO THERE?
...NOT MUCH DIFFERENT FROM WHAT YOU GUYS ARE DOING, REALLY.
.....
OH RIGHT... YOU CAN'T TALK ABOUT IT, HUH.
HEY, HOW LONG ARE YOU LADIES GONNA STAND THERE AND CHAT?
SGT. MARK!
PRETTY MUCH THE SAME JOB.
PROTECTING THE CITY FROM THE IDOLA THREAT.

NO NEED TO BE HUMBLE.
I'M HAPPY FOR YOU!
I-IT'S NOTHING... I JUST GOT LUCKY, THAT'S ALL...
YOU WENT AND GOT A PROMOTION RIGHT UNDER MY NOSE! THAT'S GREAT!
WELL, LONG TIME NO SEE, ANNA!
はし
YOUR FAMILY MUST BE REALLY HAPPY FOR YOU TOO.
I'M SURE THEY PICKED YOU BECAUSE THEY SAW YOU FOR THE GREAT SOLDIER THAT YOU ARE.
CONGRATU-LATIONS, ANNA.

THE EXISTENCE OF AN ARCANA UNIT
THANK YOU, SIR.

MUST BE COMPLETELY HIDDEN FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD.

IT DOESN'T TECHINALLY EXIST, AND IS DISGUISED AS A DUMMY ORGANI -ZATION.
OFFICIALLY, THIS SPECIAL OPERATION UNIT BELONGS TO THE CIO



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I DIDN'T FEEL ANYTHING ...
DO YOU FEEL PAIN OR UNCOMFORT-ABLENESS ANYWHERE?
YOU SUSTAINED AN INJURY TO YOUR LEFT SHOULDER, BUT OUR RECON-STRUCTIVE SURGERY FIXED YOU UP.
YOU'RE AWAKE.
IS IT OVER?
YES.
.....
NO, I'M ALL RIGHT.
THERE ISN'T EVEN A MARK OF THAT INJURY!
!
IT'S LIKE, EVER SINCE I BECAME AN ARCANA, I'VE ALSO BECOME A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT CREATURE...
WHAT IS THIS STRANGE FEELING I'M HAVING?

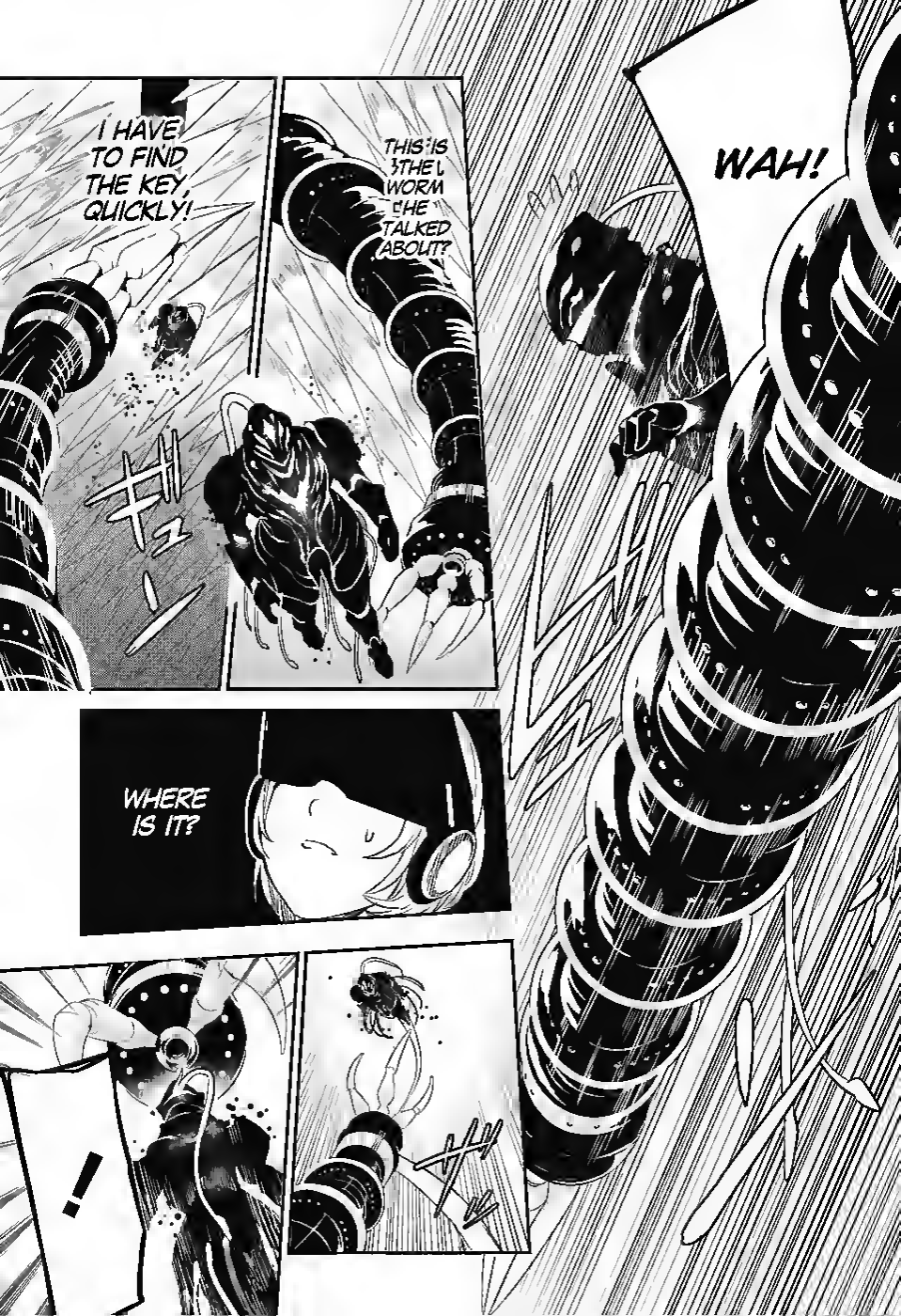
3202
training
3202
CIO
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME YOU'RE TRYING THIS TRAINING, RIGHT, IILYA?
YES, BUT I HEARD ABOUT IT FROM MISTER MENDEL.
IT'S TRAINING TO RAISE AND MAINTAIN MY BRAIN ACTIVITY.
THAT'S RIGHT. MAINTAINING YOUR BRAIN ACTIVITY IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR CONTROLLING YOUR UNIT.
WE'LL CONVERT YOUR CONTROL PULSE INTO NUMERICAL VALUE.

WE WANT YOU TO PRODUCE A CONCRETE NUMBER FOR US.
IN YOUR LAST TEST, YOUR BRAIN VALUE WAS 68. IN THE LAST BATTLE, IT WAS 74.
IN THE FUTURE, WE WANT YOU TO TRY AND MAINTAIN YOUR BRAIN ACTIVITY VALUE AT ABOVE 90.
90...
FOR THAT, YOU NEED TO ACCU-MULATE MORE EXPE-RIENCE.
KILLING IDOLA ISN'T THE ONLY WAY TO GET EXPE-RIENCE, HOWEVER
THIS TRAINING IS TO PRATICE YOUR ABILITY TO AVOID INCOMING DANGERS.
IILYA, WHAT YOU WILL BE DOING NOW IS CALLED "THE BOX TRIAL".
YOU WILL BE USING YOUR REAL UNIT FOR THIS TRIAL.

THE RULES ARE SIMPLE.
FIND THE KEYCARD, AND USE IT TO OPEN THE DOOR.
THE TRIAL WILL BE COMPLETED ONCE YOU'VE ESCAPED THE ROOM.
IF ANY OF THESE SENSORS GO OFF, THE TRIAL WILL BE OVER.
ALSO, THERE ARE SENSORS THAT WILL DETECT ANY DAMAGE MADE ON YOUR UNIT'S HEAD, NECK AND HEART.
A WORM WILL TRY TO ATTACK YOUR UNIT.
BUT SHE CAN'T ACTUALLY BE HARMED, SO DON'T WORRY.
CAN I REALLY DO THIS?
ALL RIGHT, FIRST...

LET'S START FROM THE BASE LEVEL.

EXCUSE ME...
Wait what!?
YOU SAID THERE WON'T ANY HARM TO MY UNIT, MISTER JEFF!!
Uu
THEN WHAT'S WITH ALL THESE SPIKES!!?
WE THOUGHT A WHITE ROOM WOULD BE TOO UNPRO-DUCTIVE.
THIS IS A TRAINING TO AVOID DANGERS, AFTER ALL.
.....
I-I'LL DO MY BEST!
うぐ...


WAH!
I HAVE TO FIND THE KEY, QUICKLY!
THIS IS THE WORM HE TALKED ABOUT?
WHERE IS IT?
!

NOW, WHAT WILL YOU DO, IILYA?
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO GET IT, THEN?
BUT I'M SUPPOSED TO AVOID ANY DANGERS..
THAT'S RIGHT!
FOUND IT!
RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE!

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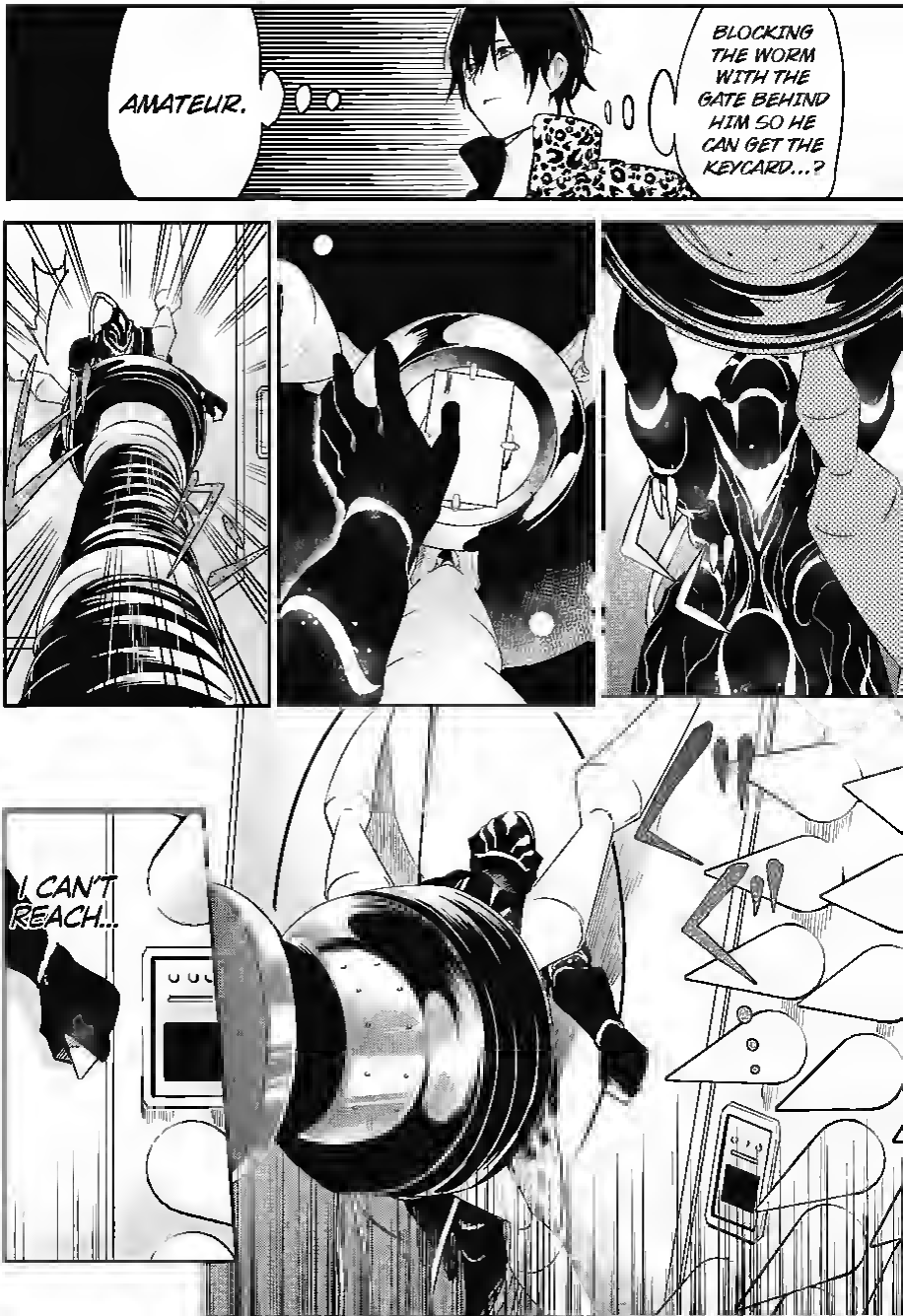
AMATEUR.
BLOCKING THE WORM WITH THE GATE BEHIND HIM SO HE CAN GET THE KEYCARD...?
I CAN'T REACH...

REACH!!!!!...
REACH!
REACH!
REACH!

!
.....
HE...
WHAT WAS THAT...!?
DID SOME-THING HAPPEN ...?
!!!

NOBODY'S PERFECT RIGHT FROM THE START.
COME ON, DON'T FEEL DOWN, IILYA.
BUT I FEEL EMBARRASSED DOING IT THAT WAY.
.....
IT'S THE RESULT OF YOUR TRAINING SESSION.
THERE ARE STILL SOME ISSUES, BUT IT'S A GOOD RESULT FOR YOUR FIRST TIME.
YOU'LL CHEER UP AFTER YOU TAKE A LOOK AT THIS
NOW, NOW, DON'T BEAT YOURSELF UP.
BY THE WAY, MISTER JEFF. BACK THERE, I FELT SOMETHING WEIRD IN MY BACK...
AH
NOT A BAD SCORE.
I'M SURE IT'LL GET EVEN BETTER AFTER A COUPLE MORE SESSIONS.
YOUR HIGHEST BRAIN ACTIVITY NUMBER WAS 79.

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE'VE SEEN SOMEONE REACH THIS STAGE SO SOON.
WE WERE SURPRISED TOO, TO BE HONEST.
?
IT'S PROBABLY A SIGN THAT YOU'RE EVOLVING.
!
ぽあ
I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING HOW THEY'LL TURN OUT.
THEY'RE BOTH SLOWLY TRANS-FORMING.
あのね…
I DID IT…!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

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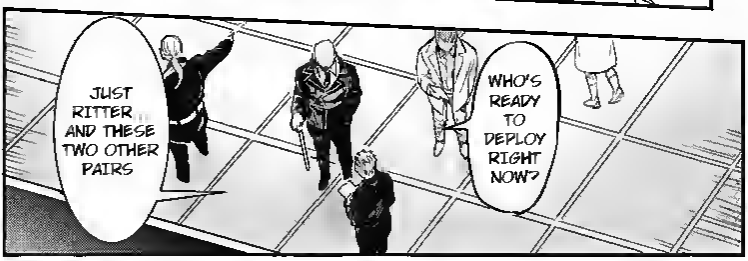
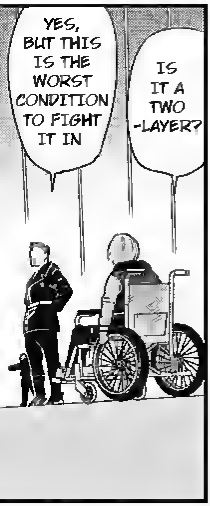
A 2-LAYER HAS BEEN CONFIRMED ABOVE QUEENS! REQUESTING IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE!


WHO'S READY TO DEPLOY RIGHT NOW?
JUST RITTER AND THESE TWO OTHER PAIRS


IS IT A TWO -LAYER?
YES, BUT THIS IS THE WORST CONDITION TO FIGHT IT IN

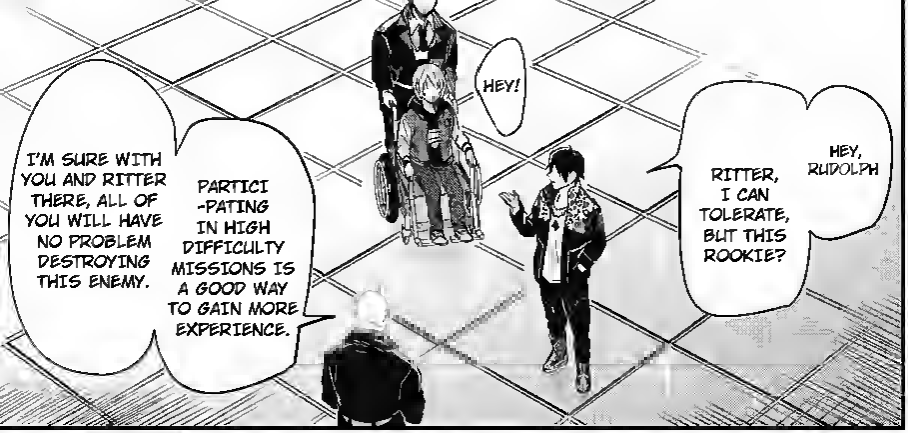
ウィン

……
CALL THEM.
ROGER.

IT'S MOVING THROUGH THE THUNDER -CLOUDS.
THE THUNDER IS THE FIERCEST INSIDE OF THE CLOUDS THEMSELVES, MAKING US UNABLE TO APPROACH THE IDOLUM.
AT THIS RATE, IT'LL BE DIFFICULT FOR US TO RECEIVE BACK-UP FROM THE AIRFORCE.
THEN WHAT CAN WE DO?
USE THE LIGHTNING PROTEC -TION SPHERES.
THE LIGHTNING PROTECTION SPHERES?
WE HAVE SENT RITTER SCOUTING AHEAD WITH THEM.

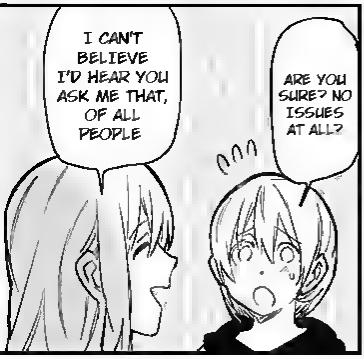
THEY'RE A SPECIAL TYPE OF AIRBONE LIGHTNING ROD, DEVELOPED BY OUR R&D.
カチッ
THEY'VE COMPLETELY ABSORBED THE LIGHTNING...
COME ON, LET'S GET YOU READY.

DON'T TELL ME...
IS THIS FOR REAL?
THIS IS A SPECIAL TYPE OF ENEMY WE ARE DEALING WITH THIS TIME
ROOKIE, CRUSHER AND RITTER. I WANT THE 3 OF YOU TO COOPERATE AND DESTROY THIS IDOLUM.
!
!
.....!


I'M SURE WITH YOU AND RITTER THERE, ALL OF YOU WILL HAVE NO PROBLEM DESTROYING THIS ENEMY.
PARTICI -PATING IN HIGH DIFFICULTY MISSIONS IS A GOOD WAY TO GAIN MORE EXPERIENCE.
HEY!
RITTER, I CAN TOLERATE, BUT THIS ROOKIE?
HEY, RUDOLPH

PREPA -RATION ROOM UNDER OPERATION COMMAND

THIS IS GOOD EXPE- RIENCE FOR BOTH OF YOU
NOW, NOW, REMEM -BER
TALK ABOUT A PAIN IN THE ASS...


I CAN'T BELIEVE I'D HEAR YOU ASK ME THAT, OF ALL PEOPLE
ARE YOU SURE? NO ISSUES AT ALL?

I'LL BE FINE, DON'T WORRY.

OH, DON'T WORRY! I'M DOING GREAT RIGHT NOW, SEE?
ANNA, ARE YOU OKAY? IT FEELS LIKE YOU'VE BEEN TRANS- FORMING INTO AN ARCANA NON-STOP LATELY

THINK ABOUT WHAT WE'RE FIGHTING FOR, IILYA.
YEAH...
I'M SORRY, IT'LL TAKE JUST A BIT LONGER...
HURRY IT UP THEN! RITTER IS FIGHTING ALONE OUT THERE!
THE UNITS STILL AREN'T READY!?

MENDEL AND RALPH ARE FIGHTING ...THAT?
BUT IT STILL ISN'T THE WORST CASE SCENARIO YET. THERE ARE STILL ALL THOSE DUMMY CORES HE'LL HAVE TO DEAL WITH.
ALTHOUGH, THIS TACTIC IS USELESS AGAINST RITTER.
THERE'S BARELY ANY ROOM TO MOVE AROUND... IT'LL BE HARD FOR THEM TO AVOID ITS ATTACKS ...
I CAN TELL.
BECAUSE...

KO
HE'S A PRO WHEN IT COMES TO DEALING WITH SIMULTANEOUS ATTACKS.

MENDEL AND RALPH HIT ALL OF ITS CORES WITHOUT GETTING DAMAGED AT ALL...
TCH... OUR UNITS STILL AREN'T READY?
AMAZING...

!
ポ
THINK YOU CAN CAPTURE ME WITH A NET?

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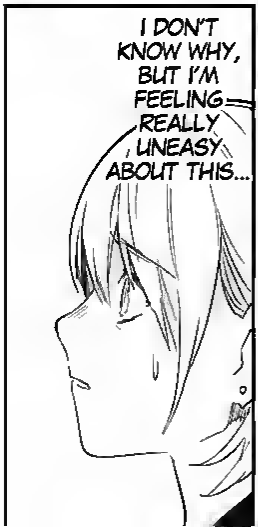
ガチ

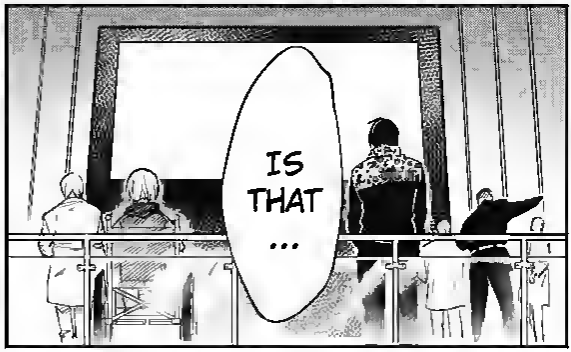
YOU JUST MADE THINGS EASIER FOR ME...
IS HE...
INSIDE OF IT...!?

TALK ABOUT A SLOPPY CAMOU -FLAGE.
THERE
ドク
ドク
!
WHAT!?

WHAT THE HELL IS THIS!?

!!!!!


I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT I'M FEELING REALLY UNEASY ABOUT THIS...


IS THAT ...

THIS SHAPE...
IT LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE...
A HUMA-

!!
NO...
NOO...
NO...
NONO
NONO
NO...

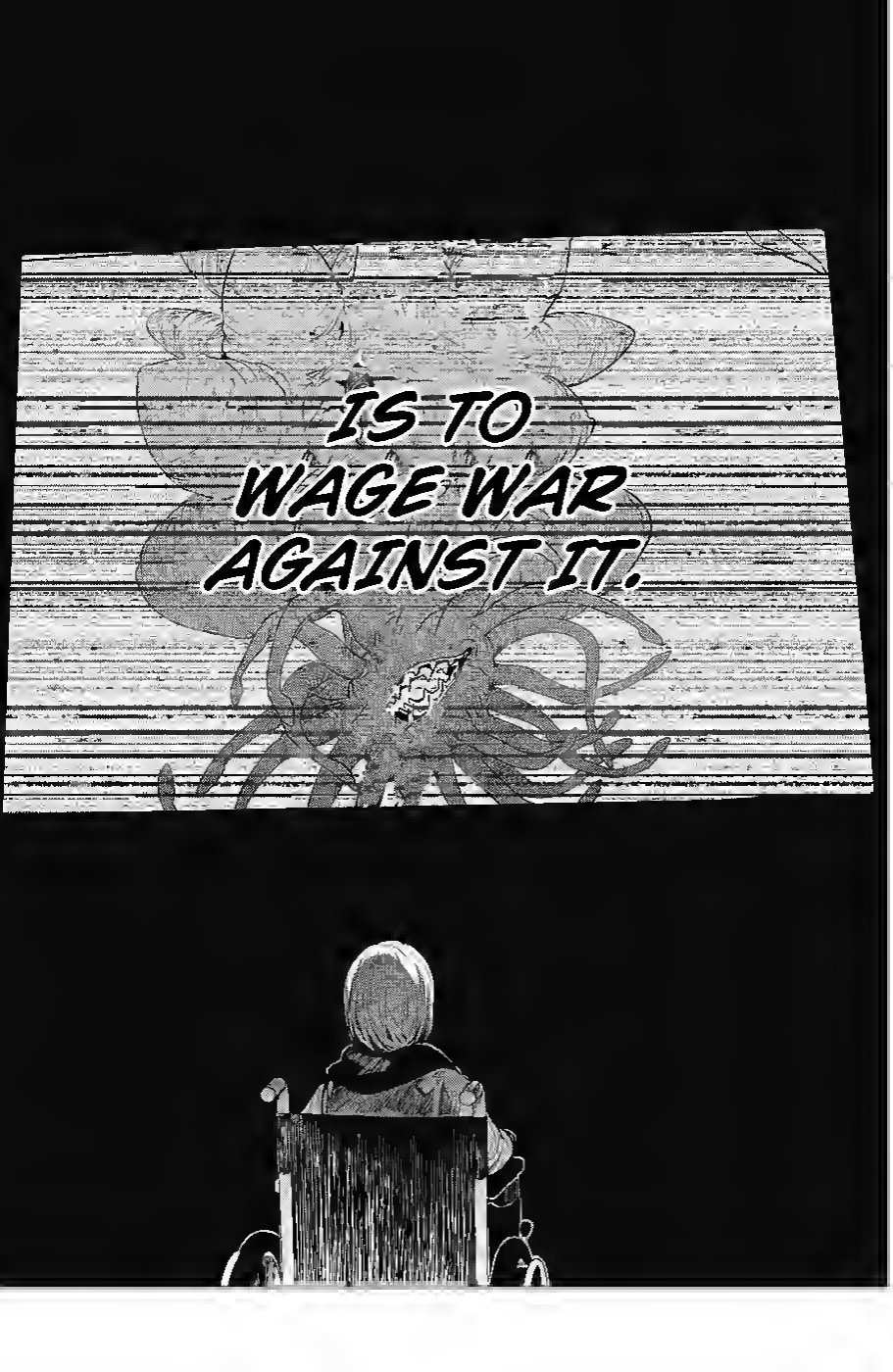
AAA AAAA AAA
MENDEL! TAKE OFF THE VISOR! CUT THE CONNE -CTION! HURRY!
MENDEL!
AA, AA, AR, HHH!
AAAAA AAAARGHHH!
AAA AAA AR HHH !!
AAAAAAA AARGHHH!!!
[BUBBLE: AAAAAAAARGHHH!!!]
NONO NONONO ... NOOO...
AAAH... AAAH...
RALPH... RALPH...

はーはー
!
UGH...
BLEEECCCHHHH,
UGH
COUGH
COUGH
.....
AH..
UUUGHHHHH
IN THAT MOMENT, WE KNEW...

THAT DEATH IS ALWAYS STANDING RIGHT BESIDES US.
WE ALL KNEW...

OUR ONLY CHOICE TO ESCAPE THIS CRUEL FATE...

OUR ONLY CHOICE...
YES...


IS TO
WAGE WAR
AGAINST IT.

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Stan Miller
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COF
Proofreading
FriedTofu